for rehabilitation of bonded labourers are fixed for each State every year. The State Governments are required to achieve the targets. The progress in this regard is effectively monitored by the Government. The targets fixed and achievement during the last three years is as under :—

Year	Target fixed for the rehabilitation of BLs.	No. of BLs. rehabilitated
1990-91	3596	2679
1991-92	4109	1824
1992-93	2317	3424

For the current year 1993-94, a target for the rehabilitation of 2179 bonded labourers has been fixed in consultation with the State Governments concerned. Recently, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh have indicated their willingness to substantially raise their target for the current year.

Norms Regarding Labourers Owned Industry

2482. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have encouraged Labourers owned industries in the past;

(b) if so, what are the norms followed;

(c) what are the daily wages fixed for labourers;

(d) whether Government propose to fix wages common to both men and women labourers;

(e) if so, by when Government propose to initiate the scheme; and

(f) if not, the reasons for discriminatory policy being followed in labourer wages on the question of sex?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) government have taken a positive view in the matter of running of industries through labourer co-operatives. No uniform norms can be prescribed as the requirements would vary from case to case. Revival of sick industrial companies through workers' co-operative is one of the measures envisaged in the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

(c) Minimum wage rates are fixed for different schedules of employments by the appropriate Governments.

(d) to (f) Government have already enacted the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 for the purpose of prevention of discrimination on account of sex in the matter of payment of wages.

Labour Migrants returning to the Country

2483. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what is the numbner of labourer migrants who returned to the country during 1992-93; and

(b) what rehabilitation measures have been taken by Government for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The statistics of returning labourer migrants are not maintained.

(b) Such persons are entitled to all facilities and support from Banks and financial institutions for undertaking any viable economic activity within the guidelines laid by the Reserve Bank of India.

Functioning of Employment Exchanges

2484. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM : DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employment exchanges ensure employment;

(b) if not, what is the justification for their continued existence;

(c) whether it is a fact that nearly 0.33 percent of the unemployed on the live register of employment exchanges found placement during the period January—June, 1992;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for this poor placement, when unemployment is rising high in the country; and

(e) whether Government are considering to abolish the employment exchanges and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (e) The role of employment exchanges in the matter of placement is limited only to making submissions against notified vacancies by various employers. With the setting up of various Recruiting Agencies such as Staff Selection Commission, Banking Recruitment Boards, etc. the number of vacancies notified to employment exchanges have considerably reduced over the passage of time.

It is a fact that only about 0.33 percent of the persons registered with the employment exchanges could be placed in jobs during the period January to June, 1992. However, the utility of the employment exchanges is not to be viewed merely on the basis of their role in the matter of placement as they also attend to other activities such as vocational guidance and employment counsell to job-seekers and collection and dissemination of employment market information data.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish employment exchanges.

Working Conditions of Children Employees in Hazardous Industries

2485. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Child Labour Law of 1986 has identified a number of industries as hazardous for children;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of children employed in these industries is on the increase;

(d) whether Government have analysed the reasons for this increase and if so, details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to regulate their working conditions so as to reduce the chances of injury or permanent disability and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in certain occupations and processes as listed in the schedule.

(c) and (d) Authentic industry-wise data on child labour is not available in 1981 Census. Census figures of 1991 are yet to be received.

(e) Part III of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 regulates the conditions of work where child labour is not prohibited.

Retrenchment of Workers due to Economic Reforms

2486. SHRI IQBAL SINGH :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of retrenchment of workers in Public Sector, Private Sector and small scale undertakings industries as a result of implementation of new economic reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The new Industrial Policy does not per se envisage retrenchment of workers. The National Renewal Fund, which has been set up to provide a social safety net for workers who may be affected by industrial restructuring and modernization, will not merely provide ameliorative measures but, more importantly, facilitate training, retraining and redeployment so that such workers continue as active productive partners.

Assistance to Voluntary Organisations involved in increasing Employment among women

2487. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the voluntary organisations to whom financial assistance is being given to take up action oriented projects to improve working conditions and increase employment potentials of women;

(b) what is the total financial assistance, year-wise given during the last three years to such organisations; and

(c) what are the reasons for giving such less assistance?